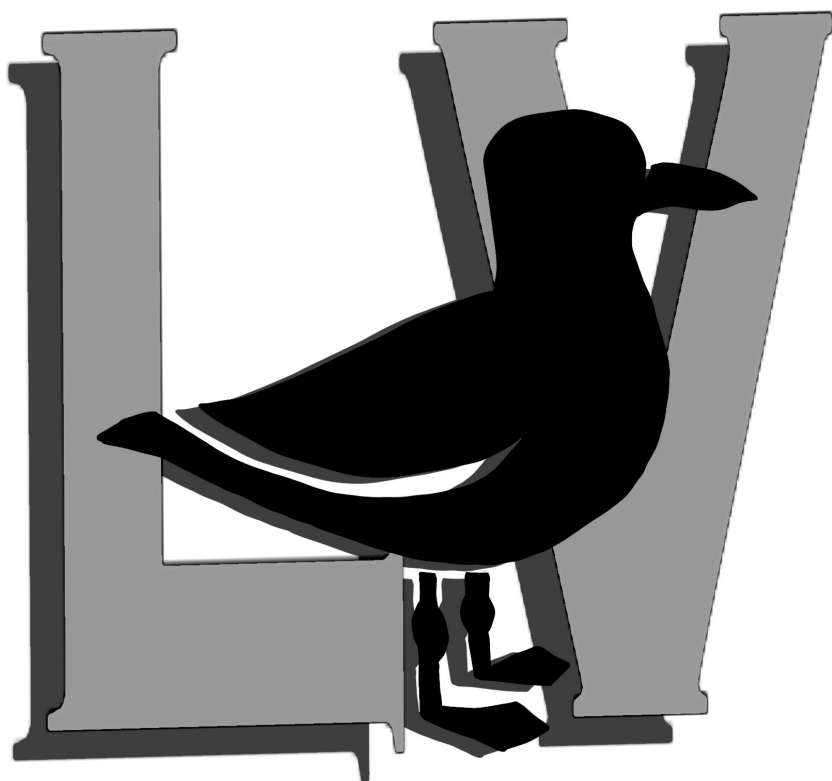


THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE  
AND THE PETER AND JUDY JACKSON MUSIC PROGRAM PRESENT

# LARUM VOCES: SMALL BUT MIGHTY

## LARUM VOCES DEBUT



**Thursday, March 30, 2023**  
Holloway Hall, Great Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**Salisbury**  
UNIVERSITY  
Make Tomorrow Yours

# PROGRAM

## LARUM VOCES: SMALL BUT MIGHTY

### LARUM VOCES DEBUT

O Meu Maracatu..... Brazilian Folk Song

Arr. Daniel Afonso Jr.

Après un Rêve (2022)\* ..... Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Arr. Sophia Merbaum (b. 2002)

This Marriage (2004)..... Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Clouded (2022)\* ..... Eric Gehl (b. 2001)

Lyrics by Sophia Merbaum (b. 2002)

Soon Ah Will Be Done (1962)..... William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

One Day (2022)\* ..... Sophia Merbaum (b. 2002)

Space Is Lovely This Time of Year (2022)\* ..... Eric Gehl (b. 2001)

Lyrics by Sophia Merbaum (b. 2002)

Donnell Robinson, Marimba

Ben Rodman, Cello

\*World Premiere

Larum Voces  
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## PROGRAM NOTES

*O Meu Maracatu* is based on a folk song from Recife, a city in the northeastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco. The tune is sung during the performance of the maracatu, a lively folk celebration that started centuries ago, possibly with its origins in colonial times. During that time, slave owners and authorities would allow the slaves to organize themselves in societies (*nações* or “nations”) and choose a (purely symbolic) king according to their African traditions. The role of this slave-king was to serve as a mediator between the government and the slaves, thus helping to keep peace among his subjects. On several occasions during the year, the slaves would then organize a royal session that would include the king, queen and their “royal court,” followed by dancers and musicians. The processional would normally start in front of a church where the slaves would perform a choreographed dance and then proceed freely through the streets. Initially, these celebrations occurred on national or religious holidays and were very popular in several northeastern states. Nowadays, they happen almost exclusively in the state of Pernambuco during carnival. These processions were always accompanied by a large percussion ensemble and many of the songs used for the celebration mention the instruments used in *O Meu Maracatu* there are references to *gongué*, *tarô*, *surdo*, *ganzã*, *cuíca*, and *bombo*.

*Let's crown our emperor.*

*My maracatu, maraca!*

*My maracatu is imperial,*

*Its nation has a royal court,*

*[It] has a sonorous thud, [it] is worth much*

*Celebrating the emperor with a feast!*

*Gongué and tarô, surdo, and ganzã,*

*Sonorous cuíca, central bombo.*

*Silk doll of great perfection*

*He maids of honor have great prestige!*

# PROGRAM

*Après un Rêve* is a dreamy and dramatic piece with many arrangements for a variety of instruments. This arrangement highlights the contrast between the high and low voices, while the middle voices keep the chordal texture seen in other arrangements.

*In sleep made sweet by a vision of you*

*I dreamed of happiness, fervent illusion,*

*Your eyes were softer, your voice pure and ringing,*

*You shone like a sky that was lit by the dawn;*

*You called me and I departed the earth*

*To flee with you toward the light,*

*The heavens parted their clouds for us,*

*We glimpsed unknown splendours, celestial fires.*

*Alas, alas, sad awakening from dreams!*

*I summon you, O night, give me back your delusions;*

*Return, return in radiance,*

*Return, O mysterious night!*

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*This Marriage* is a delicate setting of a timeless love poem by the Sufi poet Jalal al-Din Rumi. This marks the first time that Eric Whitacre has written for four-part *a cappella* chorus without divisi. The piece does not have a time signature, which allows for a speaking pattern to be utilized as the rhythm. The choir's interpretation is what governs the speed and stresses of the piece.

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*Clouded* is an exciting piece with three contrasting sections. Inspired by his first week on campus, Gehl explores the emotions that come from being in a new environment coupled with the 'loudness' of one's own thoughts. The first section centers on the feeling of confusion in which the world you are in is not what you originally thought. The second section, unofficially titled "lost," shows an intricate balance of overlapping melodic and harmonic lines outlining the same motif repeated many times. The third section book-ends the piece with slower rhythms focusing on clarity and starting to understand the world around you. The piece is an emotional rollercoaster that takes you on an imagery journey. This is Gehl's first completed and performed choir piece.

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*Soon Ah Will Be Done* is a quick and dramatic spiritual piece that showcases the dynamic range in a choir. William Levi Dawson was an African American composer, choir director and professor revered for his contribution to American choral music. Although he is best known for his arrangements of African American spirituals, Dawson also composed chamber music and orchestral music, including his most important orchestral work, *Negro Folk Symphony*. Dawson consistently incorporated African American themes and melodies into his compositions. As he once told an interviewer: "I have never doubted the possibilities of our music."

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*One Day* is a powerful piece about determination and the willingness to try despite setbacks. The piece uses mostly clashes within harmonies during the verse and bridge sections, and mostly conventional consonant chords during the chorus section. This distinction portrays the way people are naturally problem-solving and able to break through barriers in order to achieve their goals.

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*Space Is Lovely This Time of Year* is a sweet and beautiful piece in which a choir is accompanied by an unlikely pairing of instruments: marimba and cello. The marimba offers melodic base for choral chords to be added. The cello offers ringing pedal tones that add a low voice-like texture to the piece. This piece is about finding peace in chaos, much like the perfect harmony of the universe within the lawlessness of space. Gehl's inspiration for this piece was the idea of stepping away from everything to appreciate the beauty of life.

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# PROGRAM

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Eric Gehl (he/him): Director, Conductor**

Gehl is a junior music - education major, and his instrument is percussion. He is a part of many musical groups at Salisbury University, including Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble. He has also played for Asbury Methodist Church's production of *Godspell*, Salisbury University's production of *Mamma Mia!* and Community Players of Salisbury's production of *All Together Now*. He has studied under John Locke, percussionist for the Baltimore Symphony, and Eric Shuster, percussion head at Salisbury.

### **Sophia Merbaum (they/them): Group Coordinator, Soprano 1**

Merbaum is a junior music - vocal performance major with a theatre minor. They are the leader of this group along with Gehl. They have been a part of many vocal productions at Salisbury University, including Opera Workshop, Musical Theatre Workshop, University Chorale, *Mamma Mia!*, *Fun Home* and multiple student showcases.

### **Rheya Ford (she/her): Treasurer, Soprano 2/Alto**

Ford is a sophomore music - education major, and her instrument is voice. She is a newer addition to this year's group, and they are so excited to have her. She has been a part of multiple musical groups at Salisbury University, including Musical Theatre Workshop, Opera Workshop and University Chorale. She has had a great deal of choir experience, participating in various choirs since she was seven years old.

### **Trenelle Dashiell (she/her): Social Media Manager, Alto**

Dashiell is a sophomore music - education major. She is a part of multiple ensembles at Salisbury University, including Opera Workshop and University Chorale. She is also a singer in Asbury Methodist Church's choir.

### **Trystan Rioux (he/him): Music Coordinator, Tenor**

Rioux is a sophomore music - vocal performance major. He is a part of many Salisbury University ensembles, including University Chorale and Opera Workshop.

### **Thomas Snyder (he/him): Bass**

Snyder is a member of the Class of 2022 at Salisbury University. He was a music - education major, and his instrument is voice. He is a general music teacher at Wicomico Middle School.

## Larum Voices

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported our small group in working toward our debut. It means a lot to all of us to have people rooting for us in our new journey. Thank you to Colleen Clark, Shawn Stone and Suzanna Mallow especially for making this concert a reality. We quite literally could not have done this without you.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### **SU Dance Company Spring Concert**

March 31-April 2\*

7:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.\*

Fulton Hall, Black Box  
Theatre

### **Zoe Michelle Bradshaw Recital**

Wednesday, April 5

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **6 Strings, 7 Positions & 88 Friends**

Wednesday, April 12

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Sophia Merbaum & Katherine McLoughlin Recital**

Saturday, April 15

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Percussion Ensemble**

Thursday, April 20

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **World Drum Ensemble**

Friday, April 21 • 7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Recap**

Saturday, April 22

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Chris Lankford Senior Percussion Recital**

Tuesday, April 25

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Chamber Choir**

Wednesday, April 26

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Piano & Strings Recital**

Friday, April 28 • 2 pm

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Recital with Eric Gehl & Benjamin Rodman**

Friday, April 28 • 7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **EAR Alliance**

Wednesday, May 3

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Thursday, May 4

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Bobbi Biron Theatre Program Presents The Maids**

May 4-7\*

7:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.\*

Fulton Hall, Black Box  
Theatre

### **University Chorale**

Saturday, May 6

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Salisbury Pops**

Tuesday, May 9 • 7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **Dalton Bosserman Recital**

Friday, May 12 • 7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Salisbury Symphony Orchestra Summer Passport Featuring John Kurokawa**

Saturday, May 13

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

### **PRESTO**

Tuesday, May 16

5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Holloway Hall, Great Hall

### **Salisbury Youth Orchestra**

Thursday, May 18

7:30 p.m.

Holloway Hall Auditorium

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Carolyn Ringer Lepre, *President, Salisbury University*  
Dr. Karen Olmstead, *Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs*  
Dr. Maarten Pereboom, *Dean, Fulton School of Liberal Arts*  
John Raley, *Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Colleen Clark, *Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Suzanna Mallow, *Production Director, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Brooke Church, *Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Shawn Stone, *Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Jeff Hahn, *Piano Technician, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Information Technology, Purchasing, General Accounting,  
Copy Center, Publications, Public Relations & Event Services

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For more information about our academic program, please visit us at  
**[www.salisbury.edu/performingarts](http://www.salisbury.edu/performingarts)**.

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**Department of Music, Theatre and Dance**  
Fulton School of Liberal Arts  
Salisbury University | 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801  
Phone: 410-543-6385 | Fax: 410-548-3002 | Email: [cmclark@salisbury.edu](mailto:cmclark@salisbury.edu)

*This event is made possible, in part, through the generous endowment  
of the late Charles R. & Martha N. Fulton.*

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